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Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

MacARTHUR and central intelligence—
Here are the facts about the president's
charge that MacArthur would not let Central
Intelligence operate in the Korean-Japanese
theater—a charge that MacArthur described
as "tommyrot."

Actually Central Intelligence did have two
agents in Japan, but MacArthur's intelli-
gence chief, Major Gen. Charles Willoughby,
now relieved, would not let them operate
except under his control. Thus their move-
ments were restricted and they could not
collect their own information. All they could
do was evaluate information collected by
Gen. Willoughby's agents. MacArthur upheld
Willoughby on this.

Later, when Gen. Bedell Smith took over
Central Intelligence, he asked Gen. Mac-
Arthur to give Central Intelligence free rein,
offered to appoint a man who would be en-
tirely acceptable to MacArthur. This was re-
fused. Later Smith flew to Tokyo to per-
suade MacArthur personally, and it was
after this—in January—that Central In-
telligence finally was given free rein. This
was after the disastrous November-Decem-
ber Korean retreat in which MacArthur's in-
telligence appeared to have been so wrong.